Mary:

Baby boomer 1949

Girls talked about getting their “M-R-S degree” - getting married right out of school

Most students made it all the way though (only poorer students dropping out to work)

Parental expectations: ‘Take typing class to get a job’ - go to college to get a job to be ‘helpful to society’, supporting family, not to get a job to just make money, college as a sign of status

Community supportive of schools- lots of student employment

Personal expectations: Didn’t work very hard but did well anyway

Grammar school - 14 students in her class, every class in same room with all students, same teacher

High School: same room and then disperse to different classes

Regionalized high school during senior year 26 people in graduating class - (‘67)

(7 towns came to Washington High (Mary’s school) new school was built later)

Text books, lots of tests, writing on blackboard, rows of students, not challenging

Liked school - not allowed to watch tv during the week so good way to socialize and get the scoop

Girls took home ec boys took Shop class

Sports were a big motivator - boys and girls sports equal amount of teams but not equal participation (more boys than girls in the town) despite being pre-title ix.

1 sport/season (tennis, field hockey, gymnastics, basketball)

Teachers and coaches very supportive of sports - teachers encouraged her to stay in sports even when mom wanted to take her out of sports for poor school performance. Convinced mom that sports were a good thing despite poor grades.

Memorable teacher - Phys ed teacher (f) - coach for all girls sports, very supportive, long term relationship- she was phys ed teacher/coach from grade 4 and on

No ethnic diversity (very rural connecticut)

Little SES diversity - working class town, farming family but well off. No ‘very wealthy’

Pretty typical course load: Math (calculus), english, physics, etc. two options - college courses vs non college courses, two ‘tracks’

How did you feel about education received? Enough to get you started, very sheltered, not a lot of life experience in HS, never learned how to work very hard because hs was easy...

Very involved, lots of extracurricular activities available: Student council, leaders club, life science club, W club (varsity), editor of yearbook, field hockey, basketball, gymnastics, prom queen

Linnea:

Generation X 1980

57 students in graduating class of ‘98

About 80% going college

Some ap and honors classes

Parents expected going to college (dad went to college and mom did not)

Expected to go college (same with peers)

Middle and high school combined 6-12 (split halfway with ‘media center’ at middle with library)- moving walls so you can change size of classroom - 25 year old school at that time

Four lecture style halls with tiered seating

mostly rows of 2 person tables (half moons) in other classes

Lecture style instruction - some group work for things like projects

Social studies teacher who was well respected held students to high standards, pretty progressive

Teacher who would do simulation activities. E.g. modeling labor union formation students would negotiate contracts, had students present on different topics to the class teaching the whole lesson to them

HS math teacher - held people really accountable, he was hard but approachable, hard ass, consistently high expectations, helpful, included students in their learning, stand and deliver instruction style

Pretty much no ethnic diversity

SES - mostly working class both parents worked, a few poor and a few wealthy, involved parents and school encouraged that/took advantage of parent availability

Sports were HUGE, everybody played, some choices in each season, usually one boys one girls one coed per season

Not so much focus with things like band/arts but band still was there and had some good musicians coming out of the school, band teacher had few resources but made it work

Auto Mechanics class and club, less extracurricular club activities because extra time was taken up by sports

Mostly took AP/Honors classes, PE, Fine Arts (band), Math, english, Science, public speaking, foreign language, more flexibility as you got older.

Scheduling - you went around to tables of teachers to physically sign up for their class some help from counselors

How do you feel about your education - Got you to where you are, struggled with writing but got by without anyone fixing that, such a small school gives you so much attention gets you ready for a lot, not as much class choice though, tracking means you’re stuck with the same kids for so long and you know so much about everyone. Few teachers so you can get stuck with teachers and kids you don’t like

Special Ed: Christopher (younger brother) was first ‘heavy hitter’ kid with disability 1 on 1 aid at SVHS, nobody in linneas class with disabilities (other than maybe a few with ADD). Looking at prevalence of disability where she teaches now vs. her experience